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THE HISTORY OF A SWEDISH FARMER'S LINEAGE AS SEEN FROM A RACE-BIOLOGICAL STAND-POINT

BY

HERMAN LUNDBORG

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A COMMONWEALTH CONSISTS, AS IS KNOWN, NOT ONLY OF individuals, but also of households and families. These combined constitute a people. A constant family-tie engenders the safest foundation for a »culture» State. It is in the interest of every well-organized community to preserve, and further strengthen such a social principle, which has shown itself to be beneficial from times immemorial.

For this purpose, we must acquire a thorough knowledge of a large number of kinsmen, during several generations. We must confess that very much is needed, before we have reached this goal. Thither we shall arrive sooner or later however.

We must never forget, that the greatest opulence a country possesses, is its own people, provided they are of a good stock. We Swedes are, in this respect, fortunately situated. We should not therefore shun any sacrifice, to cherish, and augment the biological inheritance, which a generous nature has bestowed on us. It is inadvisable to feel too secure in the belief that this vigorous source is inexhaustible. It can decrease, or even wholly disappear, if we do not understand how to economize sufficiently.

Ancient sages have given utterance to the wise saying »Know thyself». It applies to us even in these days. But we must add more and say, »Learn to know thyself, your kindred and your people».

When it is a question of putting this precept into practice, we must not be satisfied with only a superficial knowledge, but we should penetrate further into the matter, as other scientific explorers do such as historians, biologists, physicians etc.

We must learn to know thoroughly the various stocks, their life and conditions, and the forces which generate development, in one or the other direction. We should therefore carefully pay attention to biological, physiological and pathological conditions existing in the same, that is to say, to obtain knowledge regarding the constitution of the family, its disposition, its social value and ability etc.

One often hears it said that nothing is to be gained by investigating the conditions of »a farmer's family, which is similar to all others». This is a great mistake. The social position of a family, is by no means the most important point. One can compare the Swedish race with a lofty and vigorous fir. The farmers may be discribed as the »heart» of the tree itself.

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* This representation is grounded upon the author's work: — Medizinisch-biologiche Familienforschungen innerhalb eines 2232-köpfigen Bauerngeschlechtes in Schweden (Medical-biological Family-researches containing 2232 copies of peasant-families in Sweden). Text und Atlas. G. Fischer, Jena 1913.

By reason of this fact, we should give this type of family our special attention. Moreover, we have here a very accessible field of labour.

A scientific investigator would, without doubt, naturally be interested in any human family whatever, of high or low social standard. Farmers, peasants and labourers, should interest us, quite as much as noblemen or princes.

It is not rank, titles or, brilliant careers which are the subject of our studies in race-hygiene, but it is a question, of larger or smaller groups of human beings connected by blood, or race. It may easily happen, that a single poor, and degenerated family can teach us more than a dozen others of average type.

The goal, which we are striving to reach is to acquire a thorough knowledge of the laws of inheritance as appertaining to mankind. In the struggle, which is before us, we must undertake assaults from as many different positions as possible.

THE SWEDISH LISTER FAMILY.

The reason why just this family of farmers, who have lived a very long time in Listerland in the south west of Blekinge, is the subject of such thorough investigations, is that a very uncommon family disease obtains amongst its members. This disease is known in medicinal literature, as myoklonus epilepsy. It appears occasionally in other parts of the world, but nowhere is it so prevalent as in the Blekinge family in question.

It has not been observed in other parts of Sweden. In Norway it is unknown.

When I, at the end of 1890 arrived in Listerland, my first task was to investigate the nature of the disease. The doctors in the district had no clear idea regarding the same. I had, therefore to begin from the beginning, and had to note all cases of illness, from which, I worked out a genealogical table. A talented school-teacher, who was a member of the family in question, and his nearest relatives, were very helpful to me. I am very grateful for the admirable assistance they gave me during my investigations.

With the help of the parochial register I succeeded, after much labour, to obtain such complete genealogical tables that I could trace the origin of the various branches. It appeared that all lines, as it were, met at one point, that is to say, all persons who were attacked by myoklonus epilepsy, 17 altogether, belonging to 10 different households, were offsprings of the same ancestors, who lived in the 18th century. In other families in the same district not a single case of this peculiar disease was met with. Hereby I had shewn it to be highly probable that the disease was hereditary, and not originating from any local conditions, in other words not, of endemic type.

My next task was to investigate which was the course taken by the inherited disease. By careful analysis (see original work) it is demonstrated that the disease is inherited as a recessive and monohybrid (simplex) factor in accordance with Mendel's law. I shall revert to this question further on.

I now began to eagerly study the disease itself, its nature and development.

Descriptions of this disease are very seldom met with in foreign publications. Boys as well as girls are attacked by it. Its usual progression is about like this. At an age of 7 to 10 years, the child is subject to nightly attacks, which are repeated with shorter intervals for some years.

During the day very little happens at first. Gradually however, a change appears. Skaking fits occur and, occasionally muscular spasms take place here and there, in different parts of the body. These symptoms gradually increase in violence, and spread.

A marked symptomatical periodicity is soon observed. The patients have comparatively quiet days, followed by days when the muscles become more and more agitated. Then one or more epileptic fits occur, after which the patient becomes comparatively quiet again. In this way it continues through life with increasing violence. Many patients die early, others having the advantage of good attention may live 20 or 30 years. They are a burden to themselves, and their environment, for in a few years after the appearance of the disease, they are helpless, and must be waited upon, and looked after as if small children. They are very troublesome as patients, for they are not only helpless, but as a rule stubborn and passionate.

The muscular spasms, and attacks of cramp keep the patient bed-ridden. During the most troublesome days, the muscular reflexibility is so increased that figuratively speaking a puff of air will be enough to produce spasms.

The patients cannot, under such conditions, take food. It is difficult, or even quite impossible to feed them, because, as soon as the food is placed in the mouth, (whether in solid or liquid form) irregular muscular spasms in the mouth and throat commence. All is ejected again. It is a sorrowful sight.

No radical remedy has been discovered for this serious disease. All our efforts are nearly fruitless in combating veritable inherited diseases. Both physicians, and quack-doctors have been resorted to, and large sums of money have been sacrificed — without result.

This fact should certainly open the eyes of both doctors, and the general public to the importance of taking preventative race-hygienic steps. A new epoch is approaching, when these ideas will be established. It will come as a blessing to both families and peoples.

I soon observed, during my investigations in the district, that this family in question was a rich field of labour for a more penetrating study. It was now considerably degenerated being numerous however and now living within a small limited district. One could here collect race-biological material of great scientific value, thus being well able to throw a light upon social and race-biological questions which are yet in darkness. Such a task however would require a scientific explorers time, and energy for a number of years.

⁂

The original forefather of the large family under investigation was a farmer in a prominent position, a member of the District Council, member of Parliament. Per (1721—1804). He was dark, healthy and robust, talented quick-tempered, imperious, often involved in disputes, and law-suits, even with his own children.

invisible links from generation to generation, from family to family and from country to country. Below, we shall give examples of this.

The table shows that there must be a propensity for a certain recessive disease to appear in one or several of the children. If one of the parents is effected by the disease, and the other is a healthy homozygot, all the children will be sound, though heterozygots. If the propensity of the disease is a dominant attribute, so in the last mentioned case, all the children will be affected. On the other hand, if both the parents are sound, although heterozygots with propensity for a certain recessive disease, 25 % of the children will be affected. This is a very common occurrence with human beings, that is to say, an epileptic or a person of weak mind, may have healthy parents or even forefathers for several or many generations, for heterozygotism can be inherited from generation to generation, without the disease appearing.

In such families in which the propensity of the disease of a recessive nature is inherited, one often finds one or of few cases of the disease here and there in different households, whereas other families or branches are free from the same. The disease appears within households with collateral expansion, though seldom in 2 or more successive generations. Numerous marriages between relations increase the number of such cases apparently, as persons with similar hereditary propensities are thus often united.

Moreover it is of great importance to remember, that not a few people, who appear to be quite sound, are often bearers, and transmitters of serious propensities, they are, so called »conductors».

From the present scientific standpoint, we cannot unfortunately beforehand distinguish between homozygotically and heterozygotically sound persons, which however would be of great importance, because heterozygots often, in future generations, generate persons affected by the disease.

* * *

In our investigations, we have progressed so far, that we know that the male ancestor of the Lister family was without doubt a heterozygot, the female ancestor was most probably a healthy homozygot. As I have just shown, Mendel's law demands that 50 % of the children should be heterozygots with a propensity for the disease and 50 % healthy without any propensity. Let us now see if this agrees with the true position within this family. The number of the ancestral parents' children was 6, of which three in all probability would be heterozygots, and three healthy homozygots.

How can we know if this is the case or not, as all are apparantly sound? »By the fruit we know the tree.» On investigation, we find that 3 of the branches of the family had unhealthy offspring, when married with relations, but not the other three. The matter thus stands as we had expected.

From the heredity table we find further, that 2 unhealthy individuals (females of the Blekinge family) were married, and had offspring, none of whom were diseased. Even this circumstance is quite in agreement with Mendel's law. For, if one of the parents is a healthy homozygot, (without any propensity) and the other an unhealthy homozygot, we can expert that all the children will be healthy; but it should be noted: all have the propensity that is to say; all are heterozygots. Three of these children having attained mature age, emigrated to Australia, and married (not to relations). Half the number of the children of these marriages will be heterozygots. When these marry in Australia, 50 % of their children will be heterozygots, and so on. Let us imagine that 2 brothers or sisters, who are both heterozygots in time to come — e. g. in a hundred years or more — remove with their families to a distant part of the country. Their children perhaps grow up without having any neighbours; and then it is highly probable that cousins marry, that is to say, new sources of the disease, appear there occasioned by such marriages, which result in a fresh appearance in the offspring, of myoklonus epilepsy (see generation VII in the table).

Parents, who see such a disease break out in one of the children, are very horrified. They have most likely forgotten long ago, that they originated from Sweden. And they probably know nothing of the family disease in Blekinge. They resort to a doctor for help and advice. The doctor asks them the reason of this disease in the child. The parents would give then, as now, the first »local» reasons, which came to hand.

We will give as an example, what a doctor in these days, would hear from the parents: A child has perhaps been out playing, on a very warm day, and drunk cold water. The first attack occurs the same night. The parents think that the heat, and the drinking of cold water, are the cause of the illness, and tell the doctor this. Or they suggest that the child has eaten poisonous berries etc., etc. The doctor, who perhaps has an inkling of the true cause, probably enquires. »Do you think that it may be a hereditary disease.» He gets a decidedly negative reply as follows. »We know nobody in our family who has ever had the disease.» Here the matter is supposed to be settled. If it is a really clever and »schooled» physician, he is in a position to inform them, that medical science has discovered long ago, that the disease is decidedly hereditary, although it has only appeared in solitary cases, that is to say, in a certain percentage amongst children, if both the parents have a propensity for the disease, otherwise only the propensity is inherited. Now if the parents are in a low state of culture, the doctor cannot convince them of this, at least not as a rule, in these days.

They retain their idea of the importance of local causes, and think the doctor does not know his business. They resort to a quack-doctor, who has, as they think, a better knowledge of the disease in question. This is the usual idea amongst ignorant and unintelligent people.

* * *

The Lister family was at its best, during the latter half of the 18th century. They were far above other families in the district in question.

The members were called »the great», several of them were elected to Parliament as already stated, and one of them played an important part in the »Farmers Party» during the end of the 18th century. They deteriorated, however, in the beginning of the 19th century, when they distilled their own alcohol, and thus became drunkards. Then degeneration appeared, and increased in an alarming degree, on account of the numerous marriages which occurred between relations. Now, a hundred years afterwards, the family is, as a whole, in such a miserable state that, in many cases, there are signs of a veritable collapse. Alcoholism and consanguinity still appear, but nothing like so often as before. There is still great fecundity in the families. As a matter of fact, it is often the case that the parents have 8 to 10 children. Fathers and mothers are not at all pleased at this, but wish to have smaller families.

Preventative methods have not been resorted to, to any great extent, but they have adopted the alternative of extending the suckling period as much as possible, usually 2 years, in the belief that a fresh conception cannot then take place. Experience shows, however that such an extended suckling period does not prevent a new conception.

Several of these women must therefore nourish, not only a child more than one year old, but also an embryo. When 8 or 10 such periods have occurred in a woman's lifetime, we can easily imagine what a miserable condition she is in, though still under 40 years of age. To fortify themselves, they resort to stimulating mediums, such as alcohol, but, chiefly coffee in large quantities. The extended suckling periods, the frequent confinements, the great consumption of coffee, have without doubt increased the miserable condition of these women.

Yet it is to be noted, that several of the mothers, on account of degeneration, have lost the capability of suckling the child, which is also a significant fact.

I also wish to mention that in my opinion, deterioration of the family has been caused by the emigration to America and Australia, which has taken place to a rather large extent, from that part of the country, during the last decennaries.

In all probability it was the most robust persons who emigrated. The less healthy who remained behind, generally married relatives as unhealthy as themselves, and thus one cannot be surprised at the result. In addition to emigration, they removed, of course, to other parishes. It is possible, that they, who have been fortunate enough to escape the general collapse of the stock, may be the progenitors of new families, who under favourable conditions would be regenerated.

One and the same family can thus be good material for the study of both degeneration and regeneration.

On the other hand, there are naturally whole families who are on the upward grade. A thorough study of such families may be as interesting, or even more so, than an investigation of those which degenerate. As above mentioned the male ancester lived from 1721 to 1804. In his time the family was rich and respected. They have now lost the greater part of their former opulence.

There are now distinct signs here and there, that the family is partially degenerated.

Marriages between relations occurred more frequently formerly, than now.

In the family in question, one meets, to a rather great extent, dark types, with a foreign appearance. Many years ago a blending of race occurred between dark foreigners and fair Scandinavians. The dark types belong to certain family branches are known as »the blacks». My anthropological investigations show that we have in this district a large quantity of Brachycephali (25.6 % amongst school-children in the district). Persons with brown eyes appear here, more than in most other parts of Sweden. Several circumstances show that this race blend has been decidedly disadvantageous.

In the family there is considerable drunkenness, neurosis, idiocy, weak intelligence and criminality etc. (see below). Syphilis appears only seldom, tuberculosis is comparatively rare. In spite of the unmistakable degeneration which appears in the family, mortality is not specially high, in any case not greater than the average rate for the whole kingdom, according to my calculation. Thus we have here an example, which shows that a veritable badly constituted stock, in spite of unmistakable nervous-psychical degeneration can increase, and spread at home as well as abroad, in a very remarkable manner, a circumstance worth noting from a race-hygienic point-of-view.

We must not take it for granted, that such degeneration in itself, will diminish the family.

TABLE 1.

SPECIFICATION OF MATERIAL.

Number of descendants	1,909
Other persons married into the Lister family	241
Further additions (persons returned, belonging to branches of the family who had previously removed from the district)	34
Illegitimate children	48
Total	2,232

My material comprises, as table 1 shows, 2,232 persons, partly offspring of the ancestral parents, and partly 241 other persons who married into the family. The nearest relations of the latter-named persons I have not included in the present investigations (though they are mentioned and described in my original work) so as not to have the material heterogeneous.

TABLE 2.

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE LISTER FAMILY AND FREQUENCY OF MARRIAGES WITH RELATIONS.

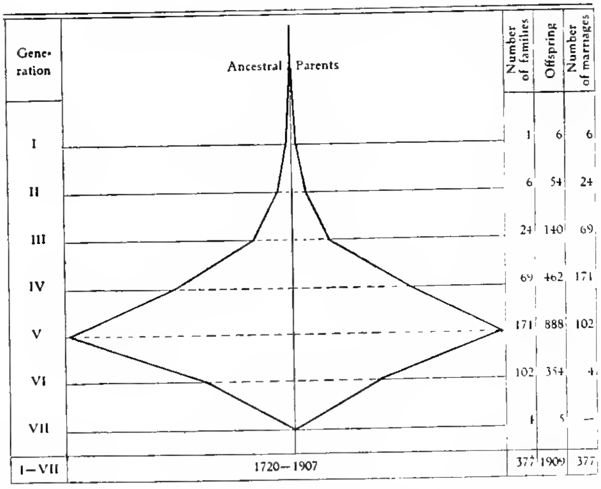
	Number	Percentage
Households in which parents have been closely related (cousins—second cousins)	78 } 132	20.69 } 35.01
Households in which parents were distant relations	54	14.32
Households in which parents were not related	245	64.99
Total	377	100.00

Table 2 shows, that marriages with relations have occurred often amongst the 377 households, which the material comprises. Marriages with cousins and second cousins have occurred at the rate of 20 %, with more distant relations more than 14 %, thus marriages with near or distant relations show a rate of 35 %, a specially note-worthy fact, to which I shall revert.

The diagram shows the increase of the family in each generation within the investigated district. In generation V are already found 888 individuals, which is evidence of an unusual vitality. Generations VI and VII are, as we find, much fewer in number, amongst other things because they are not yet complete. Future investigations of the family, if such ever take place, will show if any of these generations become so numerous as the fifth was. It is possible, that this will not be the case, because the family is now poorer than formerly, and much deteriorated, circumstances which in no small degree tend to disperse the same, that is to say, cause removal, and emigration. Farmers who must leave their old homesteads, have generally no desire to remain in their native district.

DIAGRAM

INCREASE OF THE FAMILY IN EACH GENERATION.



In addition to this, nativity in many places in this district has decreased.

In all probability other more robust families settle down, and perhaps are in their turn supplanted later on. We know very little of this social-biologic process: development of families, their life, struggles, and ultimate decline. It is like an unknown country, which must be explored.

* * *

We now pass on to investigate more closely the pathological conditions of the family, by aid of tables 3 and 4 which give an essential idea thereof. We find (table 3) that amongst 1,909 progeny, not less than 394 (= 20.6 %) were defective, in some way, 150 (= 7.9 %) of these were very defective. Amongst

TABLE 3.

THE DIVISION OF THE MATERIAL INTO DIFFERENT GENERATIONS.

Generation	Number of households	Number of children	Average number of children in each family	Died before the fifth year		Healthy over 15 years		Defects		Defective persons		Very defective persons	
				Number	%	Number	Percentage of survivors over 5 years old	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
I ..	1	6	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
II ..	6	54	9.0	16	29.6	21	55.3	13	24.1	11	20.4	—	—
III ..	24	140	5.8	36	25.7	58	55.8	51	36.4	40	28.6	14	10.0
IV .	69	462	6.7	122	26.4	181	53.2	158	34.2	133	28.8	50	10.8
V .	171	888	5.2	195	22.0	279	40.3	228	25.7	177	19.9	71	8.0
VI ..	102	354	3.5	59	16.7	60	20.3	52	14.7	31	8.8	15	4.2
VII	4	5	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I—VII ..	377	1,909	5.1	428	22.4	603	40.7	504	26.5	394	20.6	150	7.9

the »very defective» I comprise persons afflicted with idiocy, imbecility, mental diseases, marked *psychopathy*, epilepsy, and myoklonus epilepsy, which is a characteristic of this family.

Table 4 contains in column E the whole material, and we find there, that only 92 known cases of tubercolosis appears in the family, which is a small number, even if this is stated as a minimum. It is surprising that such is the case, in a family which in other ways is so defective. The reason of this is probably, that the family in question is immune, to a great extent, to this disease, usually so prevalent amongst the people.

Several other farmer's families in the same district, are not in this way so fortunately situated, for amongst them, mortality from consumption is much greater than in the Lister family, in spite of the fact, that practically speaking, they live under the same conditions.

If we examine table 4 further, we find there that the number of cripples is rather small (16), and suicide is rare (6 cases). Persons with psychical defects are, on the other hand remarkably numerous (9.54 % of the whole number). Weak intelligence is a very prominent defect.

TABLE 4.

FAMILY PATHOLOGY.

		Specification of defects	A. 1,909 decendants	B. 241 outsiders married into the family	C. 34 additions	D. 48 illegitimate	E. The whole material 2,232 persons	Percentage		
1.		*Tuberculosis* ..	72	19	—	1	92	4.12		
		Cripples	15	—	—	1	16	0.72		
		Suicides	5	1	—	—	6	0.27		
II.	*Psychical taints:*	Debilitas	63	3	—	5	71	3.18	9.54	11.29
		Imbecillitas	34	2	1	2	39	1.75		
		Idiocy	7	—	—	—	7	0.31		
		Mental diseases	44	5	2	—	51	2.28		
		Psychopathy	44	1	—	—	45	2.02		
III.	*Serious nervous diseases:*	Epilepsy	6 (8?)	—	—	—	6 (8?)	0.27	1.75	
		Myokl.⸗epilepsy	13	—	—	1	14*	0.63		
		Paralysis agitans ..	7 (9?)	—	—	—	7 (9?)	0.31		
		Hysteria	3	—	—	—	3	0.13		
		Other forms	9	—	—	—	9	0.40		
IV.	*Moral and social defects:*	Alcohol I Alcohol misuse	138	34	6	1	179	8.02	12.10	15.23
		Alcohol II Chronic alcoholism	55	33	3	—	91	4.08		
		Criminality and Defects of character	43	4	2	—	49	2.20	3.14	
		Lewdness	14	7	—	—	21	0.94		

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* There are in addition 3 cases of myokl.⸗epilepsy, but they belong to a branch who had removed from the district.

More serious nervous complaints appear (1.75 %). It is remarkable that only a few serious cases of hysteria appear. Paralysis agitans (Parkinson's disease) a grave nervous disease appears in a certain branch of the family (7 genuine cases, possibly 9). That such an unusual illness appears in this way, concentrated within a certain branch of the family, seems to me to be conclusive evidence that heredity, even regarding this disease, is an important factor.

We must remember that it is a disease which attacks persons when they have reached an advanced age, so that a large number of those who perhaps have the propensity, die before the disease breaks out. Diseases which specially attack the aged, even if they are (according to Mendel) inherited as a recessive attribute, appear comparatively, seldom.

A large number of drunkards are found in the family (12.10 %).

In addition to alcoholism we find other moral and social defects (3.14 %).

As family diseases we find, in addition to the before-mentioned, paralysis agitans, and the progessive myoklonus epilepsy, mental diseases, (dementia praecox in different forms).

In my original treatise I have paid particular attention to the above.

To explain the reasons for family degeneration I have made several groupings of the different households in the family. The material has been divided into groups according to the absence or presence of taints in the parents.

Table 5 is, as it were, summary of several foregoing tables, worked out for the purpose of explaining this matter. I shall now proceed to further examine the above table.

TABLE 5.

DIVISION OF THE MATERIAL INTO HOUSEHOLD GROUPS ACCORDING TO PRESENCE, OR ABSENCE OF PARENTAL TAINTS.

Division into groups	Number of households	Number of children	Average no of children in each family	Dead before 5 y. of ge		Healthy over 15 years		Defects		Defective persons		Very defective persons	
				Number	%	Number	Percentage of survivors over 5 years	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
I. No taint	30	148	4.9	27	18.2	85	70.3	23	15.5	22	14.8	2	1.4
II. Tuberculosis	14	52	3.7	19	36.5	22	66.7	8	15.4	8	15.4	1	1.9
A. Nearer relationship	15	108	7.2	35	32.4	39	53.4	29	26.9	23	21.3	10	9.3
The whole material	**240**	**1,391**	**5.8**	**332**	**23.9**	**556**	**52.5**	**452**	**32.5**	**372**	**26.7**	**134**	**9.6**
III. Alcoholism . ..	37	213	5.8	56	26.3	69	44.0	84	39.4	70	32.9	26	12.2
D. Closer relationship 2 or more successive generations (and other taints)	12	95	7.9	34	35.8	23	37.7	44	46.3	36	37.9	17	17.9

The whole material comprised in this table contains, as we shall see, only 240 households with 1,391 children, instead of 377 households with 1,909 children, as before stated. This deviation is due to the fact, that those families in which only children under 15 years are found, must be excluded in an analysis of this kind because the generation cannot be, with certainty worked out in such cases.

Group I, comprises 30 households with 148 children. In these no parental taint appears, nor any relationship between such parents.

Group II, contains 14 households with 52 children where tuberculosis is the only parental taint.

Group A, comprises 15 households, with 108 children where the only taint is close relationship between the parents (cousins or second-cousins).

Group III, contains 37 households with 213 children where one, or (in exceptional cases) both parents were alcoholists, otherwise, no taint.

Group D, contains 12 households with 95 children. Parents were cousins, and closer relationship, is found in one or two former generations.

The children in these households obtain a comparatively large »loss of ancestors», as genealogists say.

If we now compare the numbers in table 5 we find that children in group I, where no parental taints are seen, have proved to be decidedly better than those in any other group. The number of children who have died before 5 years of age, is least here, and the number of healthy persons over 15 years is greatest. The number of »defectives» is considerably less than in the other groups.

In the tuberculosis group, mortality is greatest, and nativity least, but even here »defectives» are not particurlarly numerous.

Group A, the relationship group, shows as a rule average rates.

The alcoholist group (III) shows considerably more disadvantageous rates of percentage (see table).

The worst group is D, where closer relationship is found in 2 or more successive generations, the mortality, in children of tender years is, in this group, particularly high, and the nativity also. The number of »defectives» is also great. Very defective persons appear at the rate of 17.9 %.

The children who have been unfortunate enough to be born in these households, have paid dearly for the ignorance or imprudence of their parents when marrying. The pitiable consequences of marriages with relations in this unhappily situated family, has been noticed to a certain extent by the inhabitants of the district. Especially persons of other families residing there, but also nembers of the Lister family have apparently been aware of the menace. Most marriages however take place in this district, for economical reasons. When it is a question of retaining a home-stead within the family, which has been in its possession for a long time, all consideration for offspring is forgotten. In this district crass egotism still prevails, not only in this family, but in many others in the country, where one would have expected better.

The race-hygienic principles will lay the foundation for a higher and better form of ethics, than obtains now, when these ideas become thoroughly, rooted in the mind of the people at large.

These comparisions give us an interesting insight into the biological structure of the family, if I may use such an expression.

They show us amongst other things, how difficult it is from a large mass of material, to separate groups of households where no, or only one, parental taint appears, a grouping which permits certain conclusions to be drawn touching the importance of one or the other taints in connection with offspring.

So much however we learn from these groupings, that the original constitution, such at it has developed during a hundred or thousand years, is of great significance. That inauspicious racial blending in former times, is of signification, as before mentioned. Relationship marriages have a very injurious effect in just the family in question, thats is to say, hidden (recessive) propensities appear. Such is not the case in families enjoying favourable constitutions (genotype). Relationship marriages on the other hand, in such families have a beneficial effect. Scientific investigators now agree that consanguinity has both the good and bad effects named.

Marriages with relations can be described in other words as a two-edged sword, in one case being beneficial, in the other injurious, depending upon the different nature of the families.

The conclusion arrived at regarding one family, cannot be correct for the other.

One must be careful not to generalize ones experience, for life is more complicated than we generally believe it to be.

Another reason for the collapse in the Blekinge family is the abuse of alcohol. We are yet unfortunately, very ignorant as regards the part which alcohol plays in damaging the so called germ-plasm.

»Culture» nations would certainly be wise in doing their utmost to solve questions of this kind. It will be a very important mission for race-biological institutions, which should be organized in all countries. Their investigations should be carried out with the greatest thoroughness, and they demand much material, which would claim much time and expense. We cannot, by any means, be satisfied with the knowledge we at present possess. The weal and wol of future generations, depend in many respects, upon what we do or omit to do.